

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application; however, claims 15-17, 32-34, and 38-40 stand withdrawn. No claims were canceled; claims 1 and 18 were amended; and no claims were added. The listing of the full version of claims on page 2 of this response replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Applicants do not concede that the originally filed claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are included only to facilitate expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed, as well as at least the following portions of the specification: [0267]-[0279]. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Amended Claims 1 and 18

In the Decision on Appeal dated November 9, 2010, the Board stated the following:

The Examiner admits that Liming does not explicitly disclose configuring the network device in accordance with the geographic location information through a network administrative user interface. . . but applies the teachings of Hougaard to supply the claimed interface. Appellants' Specification does not provide a definition of "configure" that is in conflict with the Examiner's finding that providing context filters that permit users to receive only the geographic and other data relevant to them meets the claimed "configuration."

Decision on Appeal dated November 9, 2010, p. 6 (citations omitted).

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to more specifically recite the claimed features. For example, amended claim 1 recites the following:

1. A method for management of a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:
 - determining a unique network hardware identifier for a network device;
 - associating the unique network hardware identifier with geographic location information; and
 - generating security settings that apply to the network device using the unique network hardware identifier and the geographic location information, wherein the security settings include access to the network device for users that are allowed to access the distributed data processing system at a geographic location in the geographic location information;applying the security settings to the network device.

Amended claim 1 now recites the feature of “generating security settings that apply to the network device using the unique network hardware identifier and the geographic location information, wherein the security settings include access to the network device for users that are allowed to access the distributed data processing system at a geographic location in the geographic location information.” Applicants believe that at least this feature of claim 1 is not found in the cited combination of references. The Examiner is requested to reconsider the claims in light of the amendments.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: January 10, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward L. Kaplonski/

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